

Technic for Cleaning Thin-Layer Chromatographic Plates

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The cleaning of glass plates, following thin-layer chromatography, can be a messy task. The film can be washed from the plates with a stream of water, but this is undesirable if the slurry is merely flushed down the drain. Another approach is to scrape the adsorbent off the plates, but this can result in scratching of the plates.

It has now been found that the dry, thin layer of adsorbent can be removed easily and cleanly by using a hand model electric vacuum cleaner. These are readily available in department stores in the United States. The simple brush attachment is affixed to the nozzle of the cleaner hose and the current is turned on. As the brush is worked across the surface of a plate, the film is loosened and is sucked into the vacuum cleaner. No dust is scattered in the laboratory. The plates are cleaned quite well and are ready for washing. The dust bag from the vacuum cleaner is easily emptied and can be reused many times.

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